

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~detecting~~ determining the antithrombin III (AT) content in a sample that may contain one or more pharmaceutical compounds that inhibit thrombin ~~an interfering factor, the interfering factor being a drug,~~ the method comprising:

(a) providing a reaction mixture by contacting the sample with a first reagent R1 comprising ~~an excess of AT binding partner thrombin,~~ under conditions wherein the AT-binding partner thrombin essentially does not interact with AT but ~~a portion of the AT binding partner~~ interacts with the one or more pharmaceutical compounds that inhibit thrombin ~~interfering factor such that the interfering factor is no longer available to interfere with the AT and a first free fraction of the AT binding partner remains,~~

(b) adding to the reaction mixture a second reagent R2 ~~for a first determination of and determining the amount of said first free fraction of the AT binding partner~~ thrombin,

(c) changing the conditions of the reaction mixture by adding to the reaction mixture a third reagent R3 such that ~~at least a portion of said first free fraction of the AT binding partner~~ thrombin interacts with AT, ~~such that a second free fraction of the AT binding partner remains,~~

(d) conducting a second determination of the amount of second free fraction of the AT binding partner thrombin in the reaction mixture, wherein the determination comprises using the reagent R2, and

(e) determining the AT content in the sample from the difference between the first and second determinations of ~~the first and second free fractions of the AT binding partner~~ thrombin.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the AT binding partner is factor Xa.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the second reagent R2 comprises a chromogenic substrate which is a peptide substrate for thrombin.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the second reagent R2 comprises an antibody for determining the free AT binding partner.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the third reagent R3 comprises an accelerator of the interaction between AT and the ~~AT-binding partner~~ thrombin.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the accelerator is heparin.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first reagent R1 further comprises an antagonist for an accelerator of the interaction between AT and the ~~AT-binding partner~~ thrombin.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the first reagent R1 comprises polybrene.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the third reagent R3 further comprises an additional ~~AT-binding partner~~ thrombin.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the determination of the ~~AT-binding partner~~ thrombin comprises a kinetic determination.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)